

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narratives
Project #26**

Project Title: Collecting Traditional Ecological Knowledge on Fishes Used for Subsistence in Eagle and Circle, Alaska

Investigator Organizations: Native Villages of Eagle and Circle, Yukon Charley National Reserve

Geographic Area: Yukon River

Information Type: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Issue Addressed: Collecting TEK on salmon and other species of fish used for subsistence by residents of Circle and Eagle.

Study Objectives:

1. To collect basic information on the distribution of salmon spawning areas near Eagle and Circle, including areas that may have supported spawning populations in the past that are no longer productive.
2. To collect information regarding habitat preferences, life histories, population trends and stock usage of whitefish, pike, sheefish, burbot, grayling, suckers and other freshwater fishes used for subsistence.
3. To use TEK to identify critical resource management, monitoring and research issues related to local subsistence fisheries.
4. To build local capacity in documenting TEK utilizing a semi-directive interview technique described by Huntington (1998).¹

Project Description: The ADF&G Subsistence Division documents subsistence use of chinook, fall and summer chum, and coho salmon for the communities of Eagle and Circle, but has not conducted community harvest surveys to collect information on the use of other freshwater fishes for subsistence. This study will begin to address this lack of information by convening a meeting of elders and other residents from Eagle and Circle to: 1) document TEK regarding salmon and other freshwater fish, and 2) use the TEK information as a basis for scoping critical subsistence management issues and identifying resource monitoring and information needs.

The group sessions will be conducted using a semi-directive interview technique to collect information from participants. This is a standard ethnographic method that has been successfully employed in Alaska Native and Russian Native coastal communities to gather TEK regarding beluga whales.

Consultations Completed/Potential for Capacity Building: The tribal councils of Circle Village and the Native Village of Eagle have met with officials of the Yukon-Charley National Preserve and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider critical subsistence issues and discuss how the villages could participate in the subsistence resource monitoring program. This project is designed to build capacity within the communities of Eagle and Circle to conduct semi-directive interviews to collect and document fisheries resource use patterns both past and present.

The Native Village of Eagle will be the contractor for this project on behalf of both villages. Lisa Fox will be the principal investigator and project manager. Gary Ricketts, management consultant for Eagle and Circle, will assist in project review and preparation of the final report.

Deliverables/Products:

1. A report documenting TEK of subsistence fisheries resources collected from group interviews conducted with community elders.
2. A report describing critical issues affecting subsistence fisheries utilized by the residents of Circle and Eagle and a prioritized list of resource monitoring and information needs.

Costs:

Annual Budget Summary	Village of Eagle	Total
FY 2000	\$ 30.0 K	\$ 30.0 K

Huntington, Henry P. 1998. Observations on the Utility of the Semi-directive Interview for Documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Arctic, 51(3): 237–242.